

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for maintaining the indication that claims 13-18, 20, 21 and 23-25 are allowed.

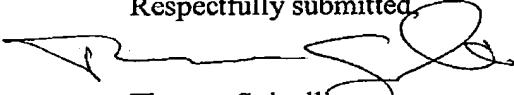
In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-12, 19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. JP 2001-082941 to Tsuneo (hereinafter "Tsuneo") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,923,155 to Dainis et al., (hereinafter "Dainis").

In response, claims 1, 19 and 22 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. Furthermore, dependent claims 2-12 have been amended, where necessary, to depend from allowable claim 13 (either directly or through intervening claims). Therefore, all of the rejected claims have either been canceled or amended to depend from an allowable base claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-12, 19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Lastly, claim 13 has been amended to correct a typographical error therein. Specifically, line 6 thereof has been amended to change "a surface by" to --a surface formed by--. No new matter has been introduced into the disclosure by way of the amendment to claim 13. Furthermore, the amendment to claim 13 does not raise a new issue that requires a further search. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the amendment to claim 13 be considered and entered.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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